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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Graham P. Allaway, et al.  
Serial No. : 09/904,356 Examiner: J. Parkin  
Filed : July 12, 2001 Group Art Unit: 1648  
For : METHODS FOR USING RESONANCE ENERGY TRANSFER-  
BASED ASSAY OF HIV-1 ENVELOPE GLYCOPROTEIN-  
MEDIATED MEMBRANE FUSION, AND KITS FOR  
PRACTICING SAME

1185 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10036  
December 31, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

AMENDMENT IN REPSONSE TO JULY 1, 2003 OFFICE ACTION  
AND PETITION FOR THREE-MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME

This Amendment is submitted in response to a July 1, 2003 Office Action issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-identified application. A response to the July 1, 2003 Office Action was originally due on October 1, 2003. Applicants hereby petition under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) and 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(3) for a three-month extension of time. The required small entity fee for a three-month extension of time is \$475.00 and a check for this amount is enclosed herewith. As a result, the deadline for responding to the Office Action is January 1, 2004. However, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.7, when the day for taking any action or paying any fee in the United States Patent and Trademark Office falls on Saturday, Sunday or on a Federal Holiday within the District of Columbia, the action may be taken, or the fee paid, on the next succeeding business day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or a Federal Holiday. January 1, 2004 is a Federal Holiday and thus the due date for filing a Response in this matter is Friday, January 2, 2004. Accordingly,

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this Amendment is being timely filed.

Please amend the subject application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.